

PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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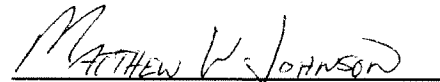
**ASSERTION OF SMALL ENTITY STATUS
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.27 (c)(1)**

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop M Correspondence
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication hereby asserts that the above-identified patent is entitled to small entity status.

Respectfully submitted,



Signature

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